ART. XI.—*On the Use of the Hypersulphite of Soda in Intermittent Fever.* By THADDEUS L. LEAVIT, M. D., of Germantown, Pa.

INTERMITTENT fever and its analogous affections result, as is generally believed, from a contamination of the blood caused by the introduction into it of organic poisons, generated by heat and the decomposition of vegetable matter, constituting the marsh miasma of writers. These vegetable germs or sporules, floating in the atmosphere of malarial regions, each one in itself a living organic power, on entering the circulation act as a ferment, and the oft-recorded results follow—the disturbance of the nerve centres, the blood thrown upon the internal organs, the chill, the reaction, Nature's mighty effort to establish an equilibrium in which she overshoots the mark and fever follows; then the pouring out of the watery constituents of the blood in the sweat, the debility, &c. &c. This theory of the fermentation of the blood, though not by any means a new idea, is not universally believed, though indirectly proved by the success of remedies exhibited.

Dr. Samuel Jackson, of this city, taught this doctrine in his late lectures at the University of Pennsylvania, and enthusiastically believed in the correctness of the theory of this ferment existing, as the materies morbi, in the blood of the intermittent fever patient, and that any remedy that arrested and neutralized this action wrought a cure, hence the efficiency of cinchona and its preparations. The powerful property of the sulphite of soda as an anti-ferment is a domestic fact well known to the farmer, who, by its addition, preserves his cider sweet for months.

Acting upon these principles this new remedy was administered with the following results:—

Miss M——, æt. 19, who resides in a malarious district, was attacked with remittent fever, and continued for a few days without any medical advice, feeling miserable and unfitted for any duty. Finally the chill set in fairly, morning, noon, and night, with scarcely a cessation of a few minutes between the stages. Sulphate of quinia was administered immediately in varying doses, and its constant use continued until at the end of four weeks the stomach became intolerant and not the slightest influence on the regular routine of chill, fever, and sweat was perceptible; the patient also suffered from excessive nervousness, which, of course, somewhat complicated her case. Quinia was again, after two days' suspension, renewed, but with no remediable effect.

October 12. This afternoon I began with fifteen grain doses every three hours of the hyposulphite of soda in solution with a little orange flower water, which formed quite a pleasant preparation, to be continued through the night. At my visit the next morning at eleven o'clock, the pulse was eighty-four beats in a minute, and no chill had been felt, the first omission in the exacerbation for over four weeks.

The sulphite was continued for three days, and then at longer intervals, and effected a perfect cure.

In those cases which resist the beneficial influences of quinia, the hyposulphite will prove of great value, while its rapid absorption and speedy action render it in congestive and malignant types, where relief must be furnished immediately, a prompt and efficient remedy. The principle of its action holds good in all diseases of blood poisoning and of zymotic origin; hence the success of Polli of Milan, Cummins of Cork, and others. The gradual decay of the cinchona tree and the increasing scarcity of its preparations warn us to seek in time a substitute for this most valuable drug. I firmly believe we have found it in the hyposulphites.

ART. XII.—*On the Treatment of Certain Chronic and Acute Affections of the Skin by means of the Chloride of Iron.* By BEDFORD BROWN, M. D., of Washington City, D. C.

I DESIRE to call the attention of the profession to the value of the chloride of iron, as a remedial agent in the treatment of certain acute and chronic affections of the skin. The applicability of any single remedy to affections of such varied origin, character, and progress, and yet involving an individual organ, as the skin, obviously implies a great diversity of medicinal property. But few remedies will be found to possess this diversity of property in a higher degree than the chloride of iron. Combining active tonic and alterative virtues, with a very remarkable power for the control of certain local inflammations, probably due to very active astringent or hæmostatic properties, the adaptation of this article to the treatment of the protean affections of the skin, would at once suggest itself. A very considerable experience with its use in the treatment of cutaneous affections, has satisfied me that but few remedies, if any, possess in a higher degree such decided virtues, or a more extensive range of application in the treatment of this class of diseases, than the chloride of iron. It is equally applicable to the acute or chronic forms. The skin being an organ remarkable for its abundant supply of vessels, *vascular dilatation* plays an important part in the history of its diseases; in the more chronic forms acting as an element for the perpetuation of morbid action, while in the acute it becomes greatly accessory to its superficial extension or diffusion. To what extent the morbid processes of eruption and engorgement are dependent on each other, or perpetuated by this pathological state of vascular dilatation in chronic affections is a question of considerable interest.

Doubtless the extreme liability of the skin to morbid affections is due to a very high degree of vascular organization. It comprises a great capillary system within itself. Hence from the numerous irritating causes to which this great vascular network is being constantly exposed, engorge-